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SUBJECT: CATARACT SURGICAL TOOL

SCIATT WILLIAMS FROM NASA BARNES

1. FOLLOWING CABLE SENT BY NASA TO ISRO/DHAWAN:

QUOTE: FOLLOWING IS SUPPLIED AS BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING
OCT/JAN TRAVEL OF NASA PERSONNEL IN CONNECTION WITH RETINA
FOUNDATION/MADURAI MEDICAL COLLEGE DEMONSTRATION OF CATARACT
SURGICAL TOOL DEVELOPED FROM NASA AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY

QUOTE 1. DR WILLIAM J MCGANNON, CLEVELAND OHIO OPHTHALMOLOGIST
IN PRIVATE PRACTICE, APPROACHED NASA'S LEWIS RESEARCH CENTER
SEVERAL YEARS AGO REGARDING USE OF AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY TO
DEVELOP AN IMPROVED CATARACT SURGICAL TOOL. TOGETHER WITH RETINA
FOUNDATION, NASA AND DR MCGANNON HAVE NOW DEVELOPED AN AIR-TURBINE
DIVEN CUTTER-PUMP DEVICE WHICH GREATLY SIMPLIFIES CATARACT
OPERATIONS RESULTING IN A MUCH SMALLER INCISION, LESS DANGER OF
COMPLICATIONS AND REDUCTION IN OPERATING TIME TO ABOUT THREE
MINUTES FOR COMPLETE REMOVAL OF CATARACT LENS.

QUOTE2. TOOL HAS BEEN USED IN LABORATORY EXPERIMENTATION WITH
SEVERAL HUNDRED ANIMAL EYES AND EXCISED HUMAN EYE LENSES AT
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LEWIS AND RETINA FOUNDATION AND WILL BE USED IN SEVERAL CLINICAL

TESTS IN US THIS FALL.

QUOTE 3. BOTHE RETINA FOUNDATION, WHICH USES FACILITIES OF MASSACHUSETTE EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY IN BOSTON, AND ITS PRESIDENT DR SCHEPENS ARE INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN AND RESPECTED. DURING VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL MEETING HE DISCUSSED THIS PROJECT WITH COLLEAGUES INCLUDING DR G VENKATASWAMY, PROFESSOR OF OPHTHALMOLOGY MADURAI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND OPHTHALMIC SURGEON GOVERNMENT ERSKINE HOSPITAL. AS A RESULT, AND AFTER OTHER DISCUSSIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE DR VENKATASWAMY HAS INVITED RETINA FOUNDATION TO CONDUCT A DEMONSTRATION AT MADURAI IN JAN 1975 FOLLOWING ITS DEMONSTRATION THROUGH SIGNIFICANT CLINICAL USE IN THE US.

QUOTE 4. IN CONNECTION WITH JANUARY DEMONSTRATION RETINA FOUNDATION PLANS TECHNICAL SURVEY TRIP IN OCTOBER IN INDIA. TEAM WILL INCLUDE DR MCGANNON, DR HSIAO-SU LIU OF RETINA FOUNDATION AND MR. EDWARD BAEHR PROJECT ENGINEER AT LEWIS RESEARCH CENTER. TRIP WILL VERIFY AVAILABILITY OF ALL

FACILITIES NECESSARY FOR JANUARY DEMONSTRATION OF SURGICAL TOOL.

QUOTE 6. ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRIP AND DEMONSTRATIONS ARE BEING MADE BY RETINA AND MADURAI. WHILE NASA PARTICIPATION LIMITED TO EQUIPMENT SUPPORT TO INSURE THAT SURGICAL TOOL AND ALL SUPPORTING EQUIPMENT PERFORMS AS INTENDED, WE WANTED TO INFORM ISRO IN ADVANCE SHOULD QUESTIONS ARISE.

ARNOLD W. FRUTKIN
NASA END QUOTE
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